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programs offer
opportunities

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the pacer



January 22, 2014

Independent voice of the University of Tennessee at Martin

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UTM plans academic speakers

Alex Jacobi

Executive Editor

For the Spring 2014 semester, the UTM Honors Program will host several academic speakers.

First, Peter Mahaffey will speak at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 23 in the Humanities Auditorium on chemistry in his talk, "Climate Science, Powering Our Planet, and Rare Materials: A Role for Visualization." Mahaffey is a professor of chemistry at the King's University College and co-directs the King's Centre for Visualization in Science. He conducts research in chemistry education, visualization in science and organic chemistry. His visit will be co-sponsored by the Student Members of the American Chemical Society.

Then, at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 5 in Watkins Auditorium, Dr. Carol Eckert will speak on art in her talk, "Applied Research: Pursuing the Art of Teaching Art." Eckert is a professor of art at UTM, teaching art history and art education. Eckert has received several awards in her

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Photo Courtesy/AP

Tennessee looks to legalize medicinal marijuana

Malorie Paine

Managing Editor, Print

Marijuana may soon become legal in Tennessee, medicinally anyway.

A bill has been introduced in the House that would permit marijuana for medicinal purposes. Currently, 20 states and the District of Columbia have passed laws legalizing the medicinal use.

This bill will not legalize marijuana for recreational uses, only for medicinal purposes, which qualify under the bill's extensive descriptions.

Rep. Sherry Jones, D-Nashville, is the sponsor of the bill.

If passed, HB 1385, known as the Koozer-Kuhn Medical Cannabis Act, will allow qualifying patients to purchase cannabis for a variety of "qualifying medical conditions."

Under this bill, qualifying medical conditions would be cancer, glaucoma, multiple sclerosis (MS), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), hepatitis C (HCV), amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Crohn's disease, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and Alzheimer's disease.

It would also allow for treatment in a chronic or debilitating disease that meets one or more of the following: "cachexia or wasting syndrome; severe, debilitating, chronic pain; severe nausea; seizures, including, but not limited to, those characteristic of epilepsy; severe and persistent muscle spasms, including, but not limited to, those characteristic of a spinal cord injury or nerve damage." Other conditions that would be included are any conditions for which a patient

receives hospice services or any other medical conditions that the health department approves.

The bill determines a qualifying patient as "a person who has been diagnosed with a qualifying medical condition by a practitioner and is a resident of Tennessee or such person's designated and registered caregiver." Qualifying patients would be enrolled in the "Safe Access Program." Those enrolled in this program would receive an identification card that would prevent them from "arrest, prosecution, or penalty." It would also prevent the denial of any rights or privileges including, occupational or professional licensing, civil penalty or disciplinary action by a business. Schools would not be allowed to deny enrollment, and landlords could not deny a lease to any cardholder.

"I need it legalized for medical reasons. I have fibromyalgia. Fibro does not offer many drugs at all, and all the drugs have terrible side effects for me. With not just marijuana, but THC tablets available, I would be in less pain and sleep better. With fibro, I have restless leg syndrome as well," said one UTM student who asked not to be named.

Researchers and medical professionals have not been able to reach 100 percent agreement on the negative effects and risks of marijuana compared to the benefits of it. Some researchers have published works citing their support of medicinal uses, while others say they discovered no proof that there are benefits.

According to a December 2012

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Viewpoints

EDITORIAL

The Pacer recommends student travel

If you're from the Weakley County area, UTM is an awfully convenient way to get an education without the hassle of moving out.

But what's the plan after graduation? Are you going to stay and work in the area, or begin your adventure elsewhere?

As a student at UTM, why not take this opportunity and do some traveling? UTM makes traveling as a student easy and academically beneficial, so this is the best chance to do it.

We realize that there are a lot of students here who are not from the area, so UTM itself may be an adventure all

its own. But why not take your adventure away from home even farther with one of several methods offered at UTM of seeing the world?

Think about it: the world is an enormous place, and the more familiar you are with it, the more valuable you may be to a future employer. Even if travel isn't a central part of your area of study, a history of travel looks great on paper.

We at *The Pacer* are not strangers to the idea of student travels. In fact, our office has been full of students that have traveled to countries like France, Spain, England, Japan and Ireland, all while enrolled

at UTM and with little money coming out-of-pocket.

The one thing all these students have in common is that they don't regret going. In a way, the students who traveled through a UTM program came back with a better understanding of themselves and of the world around them.

Admittedly, leaving the country is a bold first move. Luckily, UTM offers plenty of opportunities to travel within the U.S. as well. UTM students have gone as far north as New York and as far west as California, so don't let all this talk about Europe intimidate you.

And then there are the internships. Just because you're enrolled at UTM doesn't mean your internship has to be nearby. If you're a student in need of an internship before graduation, why not make that part of the adventure too?

One of the best messages UTM teaches students is the importance of exploration. From the first day of class to graduation, students are told to go and experience the world. *The Pacer* wishes readers a safe journey to wherever their studies take them, and may they have the desire to get out and do it again soon.

COLUMN

Social media trend encourages positive self-image

Bradley Stringfield

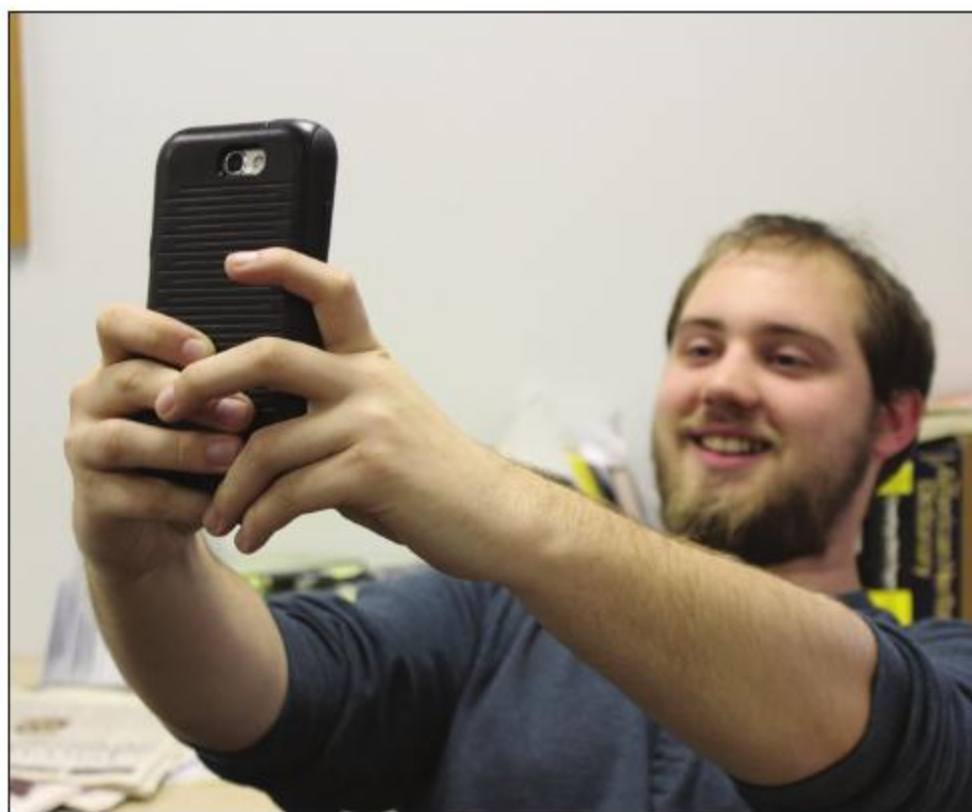
Managing Editor, Online
Sports Editor

One of the latest trends in American culture, the selfie, is often ridiculed as a symbol of narcissism. However, for many people, a selfie is a way of not only improving one's self esteem, but helping a person find their identity.

As social media continues to evolve and become part of our daily culture, new trends are popping up all over the place. With apps such as Snapchat and Instagram, the selfie has become just another part of daily life for many people.

The Oxford Dictionary defines a selfie as, "a photograph that one has taken of oneself, typically one taken with a smartphone or webcam and uploaded to a social media website." The Dictionary also named selfie the word of the year for 2013.

Believe me, I get it. We all have that friend that has very likely



Pacer Photo/Alex Jacobi

posted more pictures of him or herself on the internet than they have braincells left, but despite how annoying this trend is to many, there is a benefit. Some are finding confidence in themselves and comfort in their own skin through posting selfies. In a

world where so much emphasis is placed on looks, some people who deal with self esteem issues stemming from their appearance find taking a picture and adding a filter to be therapeutic.

There's really something intimate about it. It's you with

your camera, generally from your smartphone. You are able to display yourself the way you want to be seen and the way you truly see yourself, not the way others see you. It's about discovering yourself and learning to not only accept, but appreciate your own beauty.

If models and celebrities have their images intensely Photoshopped for professional uses, what's the problem with some kid taking a photo of him or herself because it makes him or her just a little bit happier?

People deal with personal issues differently; some seek counseling, some write, some drink or do drugs, but some find solace in taking a selfie.

Do I get tired of seeing pictures of the same person on my newsfeeds? Quite frequently to be honest, but if it makes you feel good about yourself, then by all means continue. However, can we at least lose the duckface?

the pacer

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This newspaper is free in single copy and printed biweekly on Wednesdays during the semester. Our press run ranges from 2,000 to 5,000 copies depending on the edition. The University of Tennessee at Martin earmarks \$3.60 per enrolled student to pay for staff salaries and overhead costs of running our office. The cost of printing the newspaper is covered by advertising revenue.

Viewpoints

COLUMN

Legalizing marijuana would boost national economy

Malorie Paine

Managing Editor, Print

Let's face it, there's no reason the United States government shouldn't legalize marijuana.

Let me make this clear

there's United shouldn't

make up front,

I don't smoke marijuana now, nor will I ever. However, no matter what your stance on the topic is, you can't deny there is money to be gained from the legalization of it.

We are literally losing hundreds of thousands of dollars by not making it legal. Colorado deserves some recognition for realizing this and should be used as a model for other states. Colorado officials are expecting \$67 million in tax revenue alone for the first year's marijuana sales. Congratulations, Colorado, you are doing what we should all be doing.

Let's be honest with ourselves, if someone wants to smoke marijuana, they are going to

find a way to do so. In finding that means, they will, undoubtedly, turn to the black market. Why are politicians not seeing this? Pushing people to the black market is damaging, and this country has let it go on far too long.

Tennessee's number one cash crop is marijuana, yet

it is illegal. Clearly, people still grow it, sell it and profit from it. However, the state isn't taxing the money raised from it. Of course, it can be assumed that some of that money makes its way back into the economy, but not nearly enough of it does.

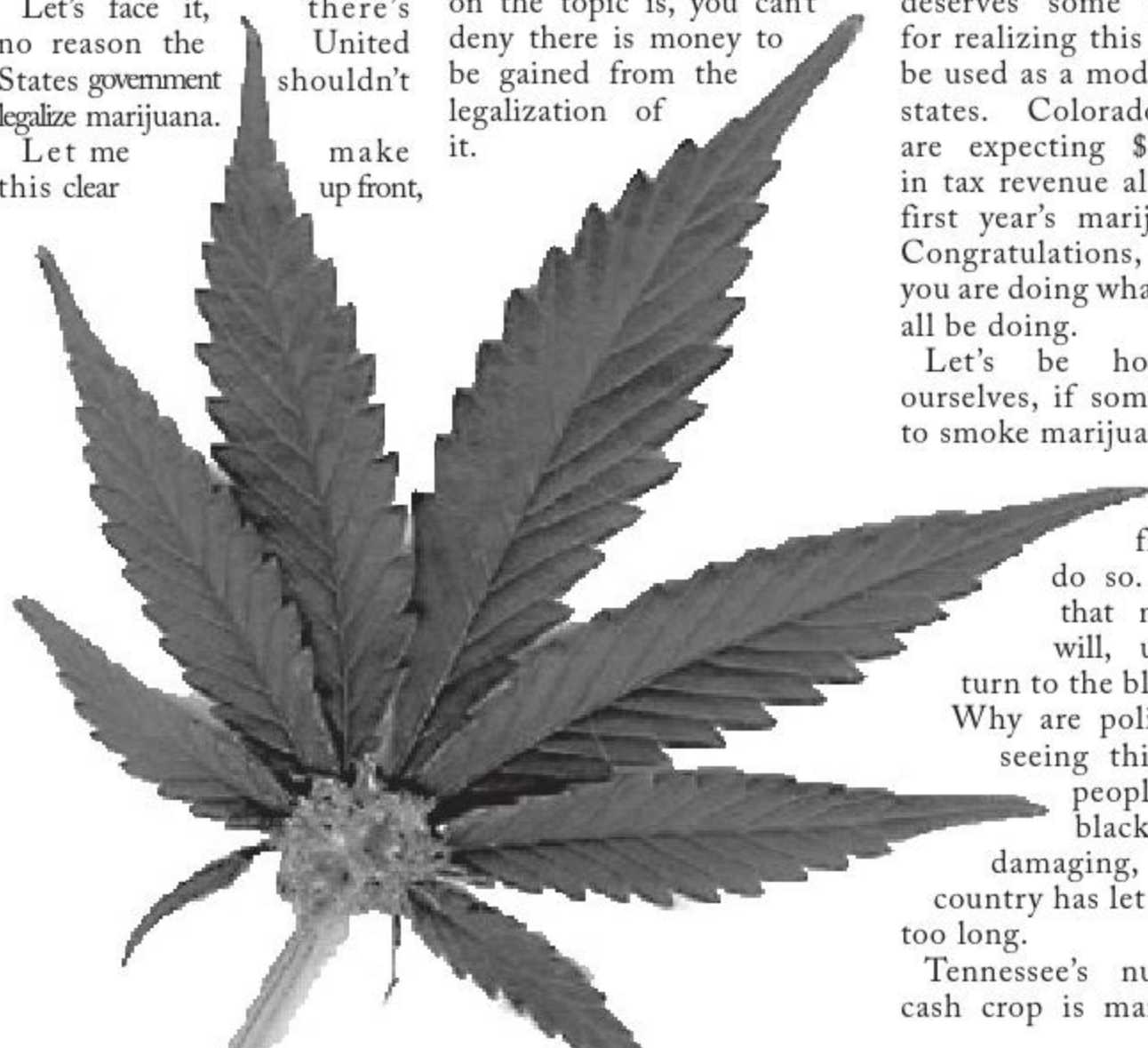
Along with the fact that we are losing out on money that could improve schools and benefit the public in other ways, we are wasting billions of dollars. Our prisons are over crowded with people who have not committed violent crimes. The U.S. government spends on average \$40 billion on drug enforcement each year. I can think of several other things that \$40 billion could go towards.

I would like to also point out that, alcohol is dangerous, yet legal. The CDC reports "there are approximately 88,000 deaths attributed to excessive alcohol each year in the United States." Eighty-eight thousand people lose

their lives each year, yet alcohol is still legal. No one is pushing for alcohol to become illegal. Our country tried that once; it didn't pan out well for them. However, not one death has ever been reported from an overdose of marijuana. Those who compare alcohol and marijuana need to seriously reevaluate their comparison.

While I note there have been several strides taken recently to decriminalize marijuana and to make medicinal marijuana legal, this simply isn't enough. From a purely economic standpoint, this country would be stupid not to legalize it.

Whether you lean as far right as you can go, like me, or you lean to the left, there is simply no reason not to support the legalization of marijuana. The fact is, our economy is suffering, and we could greatly benefit from taxing this high value crop.



the pacer *BeanSwitch* The Spirit

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News

Speakers

from Cover

years as an art professor, such as the Higher Education Division Educator of the Year Award in 2005 and 2013 from the Tennessee Art Education Association and Outstanding Junior Faculty Member of the Year in 2005 from the UTM College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

At 7:30 p.m. Feb. 13 in the Paul Meek Library, Jeff Daniel Marion will speak on poetry in his talk, "The Journey a Poem Makes."

Marion is a native of Rogersville, Tenn., and taught English and creative writing at Carson-Newman College for more than 35 years before his retirement in 2002. He has received several awards such as the first literary fellowship awarded by the Tennessee Arts Commission and the 2003 Independent Publisher Award in Poetry for his seventh book, *Ebbing and Flowing Springs: New and Selected Poems and Prose*. He will be co-sponsored by the Friends of the Paul Meek Library.

At the end of February, at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 27 in Watkins Auditorium, Dave Dennis will speak on civil rights in his talk, "Freedom Summer - Crawl Space to the Pathway to Freedom." Dennis worked with Bob Moses in Mississippi and was active in several civil rights organizations in the 1960s. He was a Freedom Rider and



Co-Director of the Council of Federated Organizations in Mississippi. He currently helps minority children get better education in mathematics by working for the Algebra Project. He will be co-sponsored by the UTM Civil Rights Conference.

Co-sponsored by the UTM Department of Visual and Theater Arts, Peggy and Murray Schwartz will speak at 7:30 p.m. March 18 in Watkins Auditorium on their book, *The Dance Claimed Me: A Biography of Pearl Primus*, in their talk, "Pearl Primus: Life, Work and Legacy."

Peggy Schwartz has a career of art that has been active for over 40 years, with accomplishments that earned her the Lifetime Achievement Award in Dance by the National Dance Education Organization in October 2013.

Murray Schwartz is an expert in literature, having taught Shakespeare, psychoanalysis and Holocaust literature. He also has written, with essays on Shakespeare, Erik Erikson, applied psychoanalysis, modern poetry and trauma studies.

Co-sponsored by the UTM Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resource Management Ed Jones Lectureship, Anthony Leiserowitz, a research scientist at the Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, will speak on climate change in his lecture, "Climate Change in the American Mind," at 7:30 p.m. March 26 in Watkins Auditorium.

Leiserowitz is the director of the Yale Project on Climate Change Communication and conducts research on many

different types of environmental studies.

At the beginning of April, at 7:30 p.m. April 9 in Watkins Auditorium, Sonja DuBois will speak on the Holocaust in her talk, "Preserving the Legacy." When her family was deported to a concentration camp in the 1940s, she was less than 2 years old and became an orphan, losing her identity. DuBois understands the importance of speaking on the Holocaust, and speaks to students in middle and high schools. She will be co-sponsored by the UTM Department of History and Philosophy.

To end the semester, sponsored by the UTM Chapter of Sigma Xi, Sara Gale, an archaeologist and Ground-Penetrating RADAR (GPR) technical trainer, will speak on her discoveries in Antarctica in her talk, "Non-Destructive Crevasse Detection in Antarctica Using Ground-Penetrating RADAR," at 7:30 p.m. April 21 in Watkins Auditorium. Gale graduated from Westview High School in Martin and moved on to earn her bachelor's degree at the University of Arkansas. Since, she has been involved in several archaeological projects.

For more information on the academic speakers for the semester, contact Dr. Lionel Crews, director of the Honors Programs, at 731-881-7436 or via email at lcrews@utm.edu.

Marijuana

from Cover

post on the National Institute on Drug Abuse, "the scientific evidence to date is not sufficient for the marijuana plant to gain FDA approval, for two main reasons. First, there have not been enough clinical trials showing the marijuana's benefits outweigh its health risks in patients with the symptoms it is meant to treat. ... Also, to be considered a legitimate medicine, a substance must have well-defined and measureable ingredients that are consistent from one unit (such as pill or injection) to the next. ... As the marijuana plant contains hundreds of chemical compounds that may have different effects and that vary from plant to plant, its use as a medicine is difficult to evaluate."

Although researchers can't agree on a stance, those who believe they would benefit from use of marijuana do not seem to acknowledge any risks associated.

"I see no risks in using medicinal marijuana. You don't have to just smoke it. Using the THC tablets will eliminate the harming of lungs," the student said. "With the illness I have, I would do anything to feel better. If medical marijuana can give me what I need to feel normal again, then that will be what I need to do."

To voice opinions on HB 1385, representatives can be contacted through www.capitol.tn.gov/house/members.

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News

Marijuana sales could benefit U.S. economy

Malorie Paine

Managing Editor, Print

Keeping marijuana illegal could be preventing billions of dollars from being added to federal and state economies.

Earlier this month, Colorado legalized marijuana for recreational use, and the revenue on day one shocked the United States as a whole.

The state generated more than \$1 million the first day, and by the end of the week, revenue exceeded \$5 million.

Tennessee, the second largest marijuana producing state in the U.S., could be missing out on revenue of its own.

A Drug Science study showed that marijuana was the "number one cash crop produced in the U.S." According to the study, the combined total of corn and wheat did not total the average production value of marijuana. In Tennessee alone, marijuana production averages \$4.8 million.

Recently, Gallup Politics completed a study and found that 58 percent of Americans believe marijuana should be legalized, and 67 percent of Millennials support legalization.

"I personally have never smoked weed and never plan on it. However, if we can find a good way of allowing people to use it recreationally or medically and use revenue from it to better the economy, then I see nothing wrong with it," said a UTM student who asked not to be named.

Along with Millennial support,

the study showed that legalization has gained support among all other generations.

Some supporters of legalization say they don't understand why it hasn't been legalized yet.

"If alcohol is legal, marijuana should be too. There are more health benefits associated with marijuana. Alcohol makes people angry; marijuana makes people chill-out," said another UTM student who also asked to remain anonymous.

Professionals say that while alcohol and marijuana are often compared, they are very different.

"I find that answering [which is more dangerous] is often analogous to comparing the proverbial apples and oranges," said Gary Wenk, Ph.D, a Professor of Psychology & Neuroscience & Molecular Virology, Immunology and Medical Genetics at the Ohio State University and Medical Center.

Currently, Colorado and Washington are the only states that have legalized marijuana for recreational use; however, several states have passed laws legalizing medical marijuana use. Legislation was introduced earlier this month in Tennessee to make medicinal use legal.

Sixteen states have also passed laws that decriminalize marijuana. Decriminalization most often means that no prison time will be served or criminal record for first-time possession offenses.

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News

Japanese summer program satisfies hunger for growth

Joel Sissman

Staff Writer

For students who want to experience more than the typical college experience, UTM offers a variety of Travel Study and Study Abroad programs, one of which is the Seinan Four-Week Intensive Language Program.

"There are some students who cannot afford a semester or a year in Japan, but they want to do more than 10 days. Our partner universities don't offer a summer intensive program [like this]," said Kyoko Hammond, a professor of Japanese at UTM.

The Seinan Four-Week Intensive Language Program is a program that offers students the opportunity to experience Japan and the Japanese language in a natural environment at Seinan Gakuin University. The program lasts from June 26 to July 27 in Fukuoka, Japan, allowing students to learn while immersed in the culture.

"They come back with a positive experience," Hammond said.

"In general, it's good, and they (the staff) treat our students and their partner students equally," Hammond said.

Many students find it to be a growing experience.

"As I accelerated into the end



The Seinan program offers a melting pot of cultures, including France, Japan, America and Hong Kong. |

Pacer Photo/Joel Sissman

of the [Japanese] program [at UTM], I noticed that I reached the limit of growth ... and became interested in further advancement of my knowledge and experience in the language and culture [of Japanese]. I still feel that it was by chance that I found the link to the Seinan program growing in southern Japan," said UTM Communications graduate James Buchanan Jr. who first found the program in 2010.

"I have made many lifelong friends from different parts of the world. We've studied together,

cooked together, traveled the cities on our itinerary and learned of each other's cultures. Our bond is very strong to this day," Buchanan said.

The cost of the four-week program is \$2000 and includes tuition, accommodation, textbook fees and rental futon fees for the month. What the fee does not cover, however, are air tickets, meals and medical insurance. Scholarships are available to those who qualify.

"Students can apply for the SGA scholarship and are also qualified for the Gillman scholarship," Hammond said.

Despite the positive feedback, there are no current plans for a partnership to be formed between Seinan and UTM. However, Professor Hammond remains open to the possibility, and the program will continue as it is for now.

"If Seinan approaches us, something might happen. We have to keep our two partners active, and I just have enough students who want to study abroad every year. And everybody wants to go in the summer, so in a way, it's a good balance," Hammond said.

For those who want to learn Japanese in other ways, students can also take part in a select number of Japanese courses available at UTM, such as Elementary Japanese 111, 122 Intermediate Japanese 222, and advanced 300 courses such as conversation, intensive reading and composition. Also, there are several other travel studies available.

"We have two partner universities, Hirosaki and Hiroshima Jogakuin University. Hiroshima is a women's college, so it's only available for female students," Hammond said.

Both colleges offer students the choice to study abroad for either one semester or two; however, neither have summer intensive programs.

"We take our group of students

"If you are still hungry after absorbing all you can for your university, the world abroad has a wide range of opportunities to feed your growth.

to Hirosaki, our partner university. We may start having a travel study to Hiroshima where the other partner university is located, but we haven't done it yet," Hammond said.

"You have be open to new experiences. Remember dreams become realities when you're dedicated to what you love. If you are still hungry after absorbing all you can for your university, the world abroad has a wide range of opportunities to feed your growth," Buchanan said.

For more information, contact Hammond at khammond@utm.edu.

Live through history with the UTM Holocaust travel study

Joel Sissman

Staff Writer

During May 12-25, UTM will offer a lesson in respect, tolerance and compassion through a tour visiting some of the locations that include one of the darkest times in history: the Holocaust.

"The Holocaust is a very important topic. It's the one event in recent history that has redefined Europe, ... a tragedy that left deep scars. Europe today would be very different if the Holocaust had not happened," said UTM Professor of History and Philosophy Dr. Alice-Catherine Carls, who is leading the trip.

The tour will last two weeks, and the sites that will be visited include Holocaust memorials, Jewish ghettos, former concentration and death camps, museums, national historic sites and other cultural landmarks. At the beginning of the trip, students will travel to Berlin and Dresden in Germany, before going to Prague in the Czech Republic and Poland's Cracow and Warsaw.

"We stay overnight in Auschwitz. We'll meet with a survivor, probably go to the synagogue, have a representative of the Jewish community come to us and we'll visit camp one, camp two and camp three," Carls said.

Before students embark, they

will have pre-departure meetings to prepare them for what they might expect. They will also have the opportunity on April 9 to meet with Holocaust survivor Sonja Dubois, one of the Honors Program Academic Speakers for this semester, and learn how she survived during the war after she was given to complete strangers by her parents.

"What is most amazing is survivors' ability to recreate communities of families and friends that reach across the world; it is a tremendous lesson," Carls said.

The approximate cost for the trip is \$4500 and includes air and coach transportation, admission

to all required events, hotels, breakfasts and several included meals. Students are responsible for personal expenses, which include transportation to and from Memphis Airport and meals during assigned free time during the trip. The Center for International Education and the College of Arts and Sciences are offering scholarships up to \$500 for those who qualify.

The 2014 Holocaust Travel Study also marks the sixth year of the cooperate venture between UTM and Rhodes College in Memphis. Since 2008, the participation of the two colleges allows students from different backgrounds to travel and study

together.

"The idea is to broaden your experience and encourage you to travel with people you don't know. I think you learn more by traveling with people who are different than you," Carls said.

Carls encourages students to use the experiences that they acquire during these trips abroad to react when they see people being disrespected, harassed, bullied or dehumanized.

"Don't be afraid to take a stand. Don't remain a bystander; don't be there on the sidelines," Carls said.

For more information, contact Carls at accarls@utm.edu.

News

Travel office can help students find weekend getaways

Joel Sissman

Staff Writer

For those wanting to spend the weekend away from UTM, the UTM Travel Study office offers students several ways to find local trips on a tight budget.

"There are many places of interest within driving distance from Martin, Tenn., that offer cultural, social and family events that are visited by people from all over the world," said Mike Sudzum, the University Travel Consultant for UTM.

Local getaways for the weekend include trips to cities such as Paducah, Memphis, Nashville and St. Louis. Places of interest around these cities are the Memphis Zoo, Beale Street, Shiloh National Park, the St. Louis Arch, Opryland and the Music Row.

UTM Travel Study Coordinator Lorrie Jackson said that there are other local attractions within driving distance from Martin, as well.

"The Discovery Park in Union City is open now and Reelfoot Lake provides a nice getaway opportunity with its rich local history. Memphis has a variety of iconic things to do; it really depends on what your interests are," Jackson said.

Costs of the trips, however, are largely based on the time it takes to get there, along with any other expenses that might occur during the trip such as hotel or car rental costs.

"There are free entries to

some and minimal charges for admissions to others," Sudzum said.

"Hotels and transportation will vary depending on distance and duration of stay. Entertainment and concert ticket costs would depend on what Ticketmaster would charge."

Free locations that are available to interested students include Reelfoot Lake, the St. Louis Zoo and some art museums.

Sudzum encourages students who are traveling to some of the bigger tourist cities such as St. Louis or Memphis to follow the same rules they would normally follow when going on a trip.

"Just be diligent about your surroundings and travel in groups of three or more. Generally you will find these areas very populated in any hour of the day or night, so use your common judgments when out and about," Sudzum said.

While these places seem maybe commonplace because they are so close to Martin, they offer educational opportunities.

"Whether you're from West Tennessee or not, the uniqueness of these locations draw in people from all over the world. Having the opportunity to see them is an enriching, cultural learning experience," Jackson said.

For more information on traveling, contact Sudzum at 731-881-3581 or msudzum@worldtrav.com.

England/Scotland travel study gives students literary opportunity

Joel Sissman

Staff Writer

UTM students and members of the community are invited to take part in a study of Gothic Literature and the scientific reactions that come from it through UTM's England and Scotland travel study in May 2014.

"An essential part of a college education is traveling outside of the United States. Even with all the technology we have, there's something intangible when you visit a place," said Dr. Jeffery Longacre, professor of British Literature, who is co-leading the trip.

The travel study will take place in May for two weeks starting May 5 and ending

May 19. Sites and points of interest will be Stonehenge, Westminster Abbey, the Royal Observatory, Shakespeare's birthplace, Edinburgh, Scotland, and more.

"We are focusing on Gothic literature on the English side, and on my side, the science and natural history that played a role in the Gothic literature," said Dr. Lionel Crews, director of the Honors Programs and associate professor of Physics and Astronomy.

The approximate cost of the trip is \$4,500 and includes breakfasts at every hotel, several lunches and dinners and any tip money that might be needed for transportation or guides. Students will also get a free day in London to see the sights. Students will also

receive day passes that cover admissions and subway fare.

While several deadlines for payments and applications have already passed for the trip to insure going, students can still sign up and be put on a waiting list. Other deadlines for payments include Dec. 6, Jan. 24 and Feb. 21. The final balance is due no later than March 21.

"A lot of jobs you get straight out of college, you get two weeks vacation out of the year and most people are not going to chunk out \$5,000 to go to London. ... It's one of the few opportunities you'll get until you retire," Crews said.

For more information, contact either Crews at lcrews@utm.edu or Longacre at jlongacr@utm.edu.

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News

Measures to take for seasonal car maintenance

Tony Hudson

Guest Writer

With winter still hovering and temperatures swinging, students need to spend a little time outside of classes making sure their vehicles continue to run well.

According to the Car Care Council, taking care of minor concerns and establishing regular maintenance now can help prevent major problems in the future.

"Neglected vehicle care almost always means much higher costs down the line in the form of more extensive repairs or lost resale value," said Rich White, executive director of the Car Care Council.

Tire pressure should be checked weekly in cold weather, according to the Council's website, www.carcare.org. Tire tread also should be checked, and look for bulges, punctures and cracks that may be on the tire sidewalls. If the tread isn't good or other problems are found, the tires need to be changed to prevent accidents.

Every vehicle should have a spare tire and it, too, needs to be checked for pressure and tread. In the event of a possible flat tire, always have a jack and lug wrench handy, as well as a can or two of Fix-A-Flat. This product is a tire sealant in a can designed for flat tires caused



Photo Credit / truecar.com

by small punctures. Fix-A-Flat is temporary, but can seal the tire long enough to enable someone to get to a repair shop or service station for a patch or replacement tire.

Windshield wiper blades also need to be checked and replaced if they are dull. The general rule is that wiper blades should be replaced every six months. Also, during cold weather, standard wiper fluid should be changed to a fluid that contains antifreeze.

Other vehicle inspections crucial in cold weather include checking the battery, brake system, heater,

defroster and exhaust system. Carbon monoxide leaks in the exhaust can be deadly, particularly in the winter when windows are closed.

The Car Care Council also recommends that gas tanks be kept at least half full during the winter to minimize the chances of gas lines freezing. Along with a spare tire and tools, a good vehicle emergency kit will include an ice scraper, jumper cables, flashlight, flares, blanket, extra clothes, candles and/or matches, bottled water, dry food snacks and needed medication.

Door locks also can freeze, so try warming the key and then inserting it into the lock. Another trick is to dab the key with some petroleum jelly. This may not work on the first try, but be persistent. Also, be gentle so the lock or key doesn't get damaged.

For those whose vehicles already were winterized, and along with the system checks listed above, the Car Care Council recommends the following tips to get good vehicle performance in any season:

- Check all fluids, including engine oil, power steering, brake and transmission as well as

windshield washer solvent and antifreeze/coolant.

- Check the hoses and belts to make sure they are not cracked, brittle, frayed, loose or showing signs of excessive wear.

- Have the brake linings, rotors and drums inspected at each oil change.

- Schedule a tune-up to help the engine deliver the best balance of power and fuel economy and produce the lowest level of emissions.

- Inspect the steering and suspension system annually, including shock absorbers, struts and chassis parts such as ball joints, tie rod ends and other related components.

- Check that all interior and exterior lighting is working properly.

"With proper care," according to the Council, "the typical vehicle should deliver at least 200,000 miles of safe, dependable performance."

"Whether it's an oil change, replacing brakes or new belts and hoses, that periodic repair bill is a drop in the bucket compared to monthly payments on a new car," White said. "The bottom line is that a properly maintained vehicle is safer, more dependable, more fuel efficient, less polluting and more valuable."

Communications acquires new space in Gooch

Tammy Jo Stanford

Guest Writer

Recently, the UTM campus has seen renovations and improvements, one of which is the new Fine Arts Building, which now allows free space in several of the buildings on campus.

One of these buildings with free space includes Gooch Hall, where now on the second floor, the Communications Department has added some much-needed space for a new classroom, office space and media space.

The UTM Department of

Communications Chair Dr. Robert Nanney said that these changes include some professors relocating their offices, with Instructor of Communications Rodney Freed and Associate Professor of Communications Dr. Richard Robinson moving to 217A and 217B.

"They relocated to comply with the Federal Communications Commission's requirement that their offices be in the same location as our broadcasting studios," Nanney said.

Nanney assures students that these changes will not affect the Communications Department's day-to-day operations but will vastly improve their learning experience.

"We have needed a large classroom for several years and had been borrowing one from another department. Fortunately, when Visual and Theater Arts left the building, we gained permission to transform the old 'black box theater' room into a classroom that is large enough for about 75 students but also can be used for two smaller public speaking classes with a partition," Nanney said.

Another urgent need was addressed concerning the lack of media room space for the radio and TV studios, including basic office space for student staff and faculty advisers.

"These changes have enabled us to install a larger set for the TV

studio because we've moved our photojournalism and digital editing equipment out of the studio and into an adjacent area. And we've found space for multimedia editing in that same area, which is great for our Media Design students. The department itself has needed more storage for years, and we're excited that part of the new second-floor area meets that need," Nanney said.

These changes have brought about the relocation of two other members of the Communications faculty as well. Assistant Professor of Communications Dr. Tracy Rutledge has moved to Freed's former office, Gooch 305M, and Assistant

Professor of Communications Dr. Chara Van Horn will be moving to Robinson's former office, 305E, later this semester.

The UTM Department of Communications recently celebrated its 35th anniversary, and Nanney is grateful to continue the department's momentum with the new space.

"It's been a win-win all around, and we so appreciate the support and cooperation of the administration for making this possible," Nanney said.

The Department of Communications is located in 305 Gooch Hall and can be reached at 731-881-7750.

Arts & Entertainment

Review: *Saving Mr. Banks* charms audiences

John Nicholson

Guest Writer

It's probably not the most hipster thing to say, but I love Disney. I love the cartoon shorts, the animated features, the live-action films (pre-1990s) and the theme parks. There's something magical about this stuff that I just can't explain. I'm especially keen on *Mary Poppins*. What a great movie. I never really knew anything about what happened during the making of the film, so when I heard that a movie was being made that showed the troubles the production had, I was all for it.

Taking place in 1961, Emma Thompson plays the author of *Mary Poppins*, P.L. Travers, or Mrs. Travers, as she prefers to be addressed. For the past 20 years, Walt Disney performed by Tom Hanks, has been trying to get Mrs. Travers to sign the rights of her book over to him so he can turn it into a movie. However, the conservative British author doesn't want her beloved book to be turned into a "silly cartoon." Unfortunately, she has run out of money and desperately needs this deal with Disney to get back on her feet. Before she signs anything, she demands to work with the screenwriter and songwriters of the film so it can meet her approval.

Half of the film is about Mrs. Travers clashing with Disney and his collaborators over how the film will be presented. The other half is a flashback, which is integrated throughout the entire film, showing Mrs. Travers as a young girl and her relationship with her drunken father, played by Colin Farrell. This all gives great insight into what shaped her into the person she is.

The movie has great art direction, perfectly recreating Hollywood in the 60s, including old-time Disneyland. Being a film geek, it was a pure joy to see all of this come to life again. It was so cool seeing all the different Disney posters and memorabilia all around Mr. Disney's office too.

The film is perfectly balanced with humor, sentimentality and some heavy thematic elements. Most of the humor comes from Mrs. Travers' behavior towards her "collaborators." Her reactions to what ended up being some of the most memorable things about *Mary Poppins* are laced with insight and humor. The flashbacks are the most serious parts of the film. I thought they really helped expand on Travers as a character. It helped me understand why she was the way she was. They are filmed with a slight dreamlike quality, which really worked.

Emma Thompson delivers her best performance in over a



Photo Credit/USA Today

decade. She's just wonderful as Mrs. Travers. She's a stuffy British woman with no sense of humor. But of course, she does eventually warm up a bit. Thompson nails every note perfectly, as she transforms from a bitter old maid to a person with some real emotional trauma. She definitely deserves an Oscar nomination. Tom Hanks is fine as Walt Disney. It's not an Oscar-worthy turn, but it doesn't need to be. Hanks has the perfect amount of familiarity and charm that he ends up being a perfect Disney for this story. Colin Farrell is somewhat magical as that affectionate but

irresponsible father full of love. Jason Schwartzman and B.J. Novak as the songwriters have some great moments together. Actually, there's a lovely tender moment between Schwartzman and Hanks that made me feel all warm inside. Bradley Whitford as the screenwriter is good as is Paul Giamatti as Travers' limo driver with a heart of gold.

The film is directed by John Lee Hancock, who made *The Alamo* and *Blind Side*. The direction doesn't draw attention to itself, but it's a smartly polished film. The screenplay, I'm sure, takes many liberties, especially with

Mrs. Travers' opinions on the final outcome of *Mary Poppins*. But, it's a movie, and as a movie, it completely worked for me. The film also has a lovely score, which mixes in adaptations of *Mary Poppins*' songs throughout.

It may not be historically accurate, but so what? It's one of those old-fashioned, feel-good dramas that makes you feel all gooey inside. It's a crowd-pleaser of a film that features an iconic performance from Emma Thompson. This is a perfect film to see with the family.

Vanguard Theatre auditions *Book of Days*

Rachael Vacek

Guest Writer

Auditions for the 2014 Vanguard Theatre's production of *Book of Days* by Lanford Wilson are underway.

Auditions will be held today, Wed. Jan. 22, at 7 p.m. in Room 147 (the Little Theatre) of the Fine Arts Building. Students who audition will use cold

readings that are provided.

Wilson recently passed away, so the Vanguard Theatre is honoring his memory by performing the play this semester.

"Because he recently died, it would be great to perform one of his plays," said Doug Cook, Chair of the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts and manager of set and stage design for the play.

Cook went on to say that the

new Little Theatre has excellent technology and lighting and the play will show this off.

Director Ken Zimmerman is also enthusiastic about the play being performed in the Little Theatre.

"This is only the second play in the new space so it'll be nice. I do want people to know we are really excited about this play," Zimmerman said.

Book of Days is set in a small

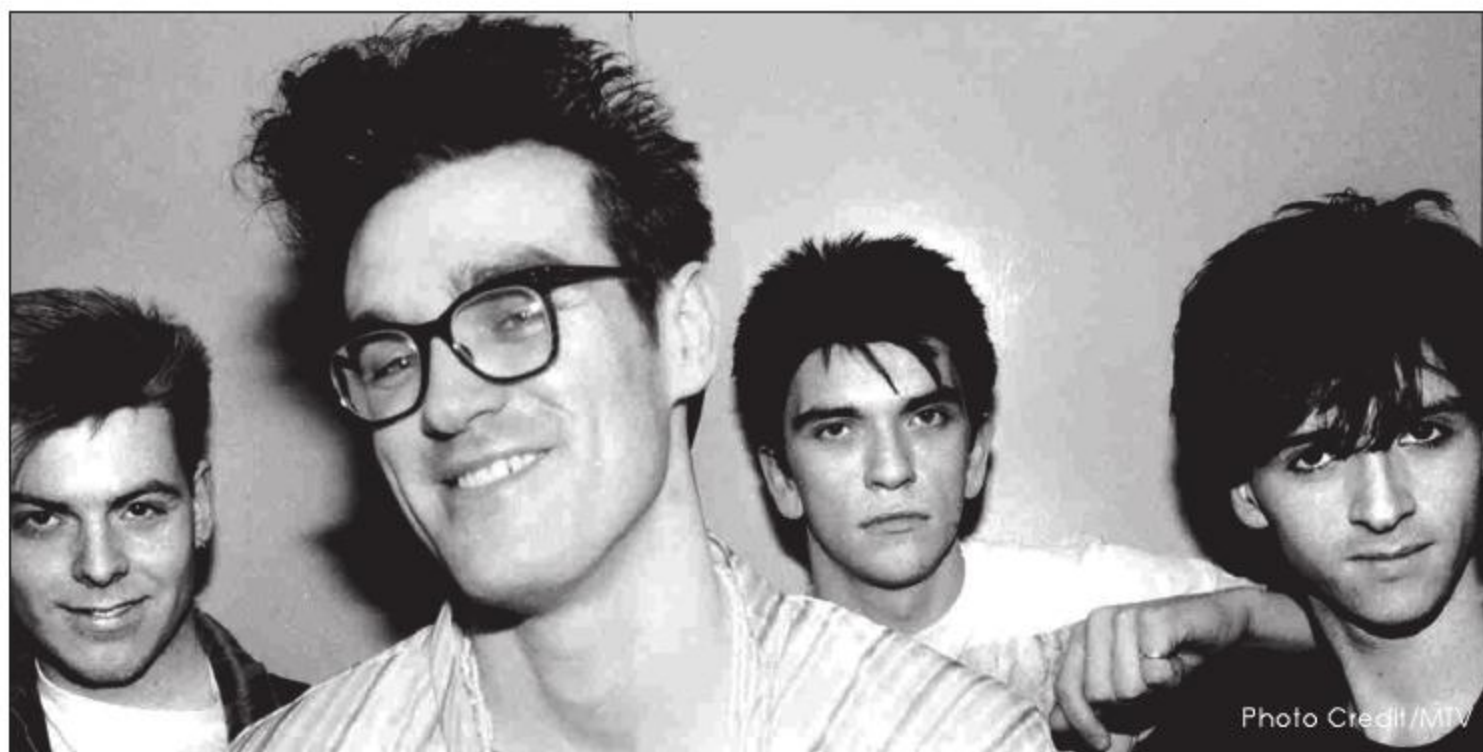
town in Missouri and focuses on a cheese plant, a church and a theater. The owner of the cheese plant mysteriously dies in a hunting accident. His bookkeeper, Ruth Hunt, thinks his death is no accident and begins to investigate the jealousy, greed, lies and religion surrounding it.

"On the surface, it's a murder mystery but as it evolves, it becomes more and more involved than just the murder. It has a more

serious theme than what were [accustomed] to doing and will be a benefit to the audience and the actors," Zimmerman said.

The performance requires seven men and five women for the cast. Rehearsals for the play will begin on Jan. 27, with early evening rehearsals Monday through Thursday and afternoon rehearsals on Friday and Saturday. The production will be performed every night from March 15-22.

Arts & Entertainment



Review: The Smiths remain unappreciated

Lauren Kisner

Staff Writer

As bombs were dropping in Libya, Americans were being held hostage in Lebanon and Mad Cow disease was first identified as an epidemic in Britain, the music industry was amplifying its synthesized pop and grunge sound that classically defines the decade of the 80s. We tend to idolize musicians such as Madonna, Michael Jackson and Fleetwood Mac.

But there's a band – far less recognized than any of those poster-bands of the era – that created a fusion of 60s rock and a post punk, whose 1986 LP topped albums by The Beatles, The Stone Roses and the Pixies. They have been called the most important alternative rock band to emerge from the British indie scene of the 1980s. Formed in Manchester in 1982, vocalist Morrissey, guitarist Johnny Marr, bassist Andy Rourke and drummer Mike Joyce together became known as The Smiths.

The group signed with the independent record label Rough Trade Records and released some of what would later be recalled as the band's greatest albums, *The Smiths* (1984), *Meat Is Murder* (1985), *The Queen Is Dead* (1986) and *Strangeways, Here We Come* (1987), all these reached the

UK Top 5. In 2012, the band had four albums make the Rolling Stone's list of the "500 Greatest Albums of All Time." The combination of Morrissey's vocal talent and Marr's genius songwriting formed vivacious lyrical minutes, and developed a new, unique voice within pop music.

The Hatful of Hollow (released 1984) album falls anywhere from dismissive sorrows to narcissistic self pity. The hit song "How Soon Is Now" was adapted from Geroge Elliot's novel *Middlemarch*. Morrissey sings "son and heir of nothing particular," meaning the singer is a product of his own shyness, but realizes his legacy is in the making. *The Queen Is Dead* was their third studio album that addressed everything from fame ("Frankly, Mr. Shankly") to celibacy ("Never Had No One Ever").

"I had this moment also, you know, before we made the album, where I was standing in my kitchen, walking towards the sink or something and thought, 'Holy shit. You're gonna have to dig deep now,'" said Johnny Marr in an interview with SPIN (April 2012).

"It was both a little scary and humbling, but it was something to strive for. I think the reason that people point to *The Queen Is Dead* as being the best Smiths album is because it housed all

the facets of the band. There's an overloading 'Smiths-ness' to it, really."

In 2013 Hub Pages recalls The Smiths as "quite simply one of the most important indie and alternative bands ever... just about every UK alternative band (commonly refer to as brit-pop) cited The Smiths as an influence, along with a number of U.S. indie and alternative artists [like] The Stone Roses, Suede, Blur, The Libertines, Beck, Modest Mouse [and] Death Cab for Cutie."

The band broke up in 1987 and turned down several offers to reunite. They were never inducted into any Hall of Fame and failed to bust the mainstream barrier in the U.S. in their prime. Their fan base still loyally listens to the notorious Morrissey and Marr heavenly duo and is making efforts to establish the band among the rest of the unforgotten greats.

"In terms of the music, I think the first record is kinda like a time capsule. I don't want to describe the music too much, because then I just sound like a journalist, but I like [The Smiths] because of what it meant and how people heard it as something new when it came out. But it really doesn't represent how the group sounded at the time," Marr said.

"We wanted to be a modern band and impress our friends who had good taste and I think we did that."

Review: *Lone Survivor* falls short of bringing the rain to audiences

Joel Sissman

Staff Writer

What do the words honor, brotherhood and the homeland mean to people? For many, these three words are what to fight for in the ever-growing struggle against terrorism.

This theme is what the 2013 American war film *Lone Survivor* speaks on. In its attempt to explain these concepts, however, it has some viewers scratching their heads trying to figure out what it was trying to accomplish.

Lone Survivor is a re-enactment film based on the book of the same name directed by Battleship director Peter Berg and stars Mark Wahlberg, Taylor Kitsch, Emile Hirsch, Ben Foster and Eric Bana in the roles of a four-man Navy SEAL team trying to track down wanted Taliban leader Ahmad Shah.

The film starts leaving audiences anxiously holding their breath as they wait to see chaos break loose in a confusing series of montages showing grueling training and action scenes in the present before quickly throwing them back into the past before the failed mission had started.

One of the main themes that was touched on in the first half of *Lone Survivor* is the concept of brotherhood between soldiers. At the very beginning of the film, we see the team talking about their relationships and messing around in between missions. It briefly serves as a way to remind us of their humanity, and that they are not just killing machines. To

further show the brotherhood between the men, we also see holding fraternity-like meetings, such as before they indoctrinate one of the new recruits. However, this is where the film begins to fall short.

First off, after the scene where a newbie is allowed to join the SEAL fraternity in the first ten minutes of the film, the viewers only see him briefly one more time before he is forgotten by the rest of the film. This contributes to a major drawback of the film in that a lot of screen time in *Lone Survivor* is often unfortunately wasted on overly long scenes or montages with dialogue that lacks good narrative content, taking too much time to describe how and why they are going to capture their target, rather than doing a more brief summary.

A second drawback is the apparent lack of characterization by the actors. Other than when we are first briefly introduced to characters and their families back home, we know little to nothing about who they are or how they think as individuals, which in turn makes it difficult to connect with them when they are fighting for survival.

Should you go see *Lone Survivor*? Clocking in at two hours with its lack of characterization and overly long scenes, I wouldn't recommend it to all but I would recommend it to those who have served or know someone serving in the war or are familiar with the backstory of the film. Still, *Saving Private Ryan* would be a better choice with the same morals and same story, but a different war.

Arts & Entertainment

COLUMN



Photo Credit/TNT Magazine

Why *Mad Men* should be next series you watch

Katie Jarvis

Staff Writer

I am not the person you will find scheduling plans around the newest episode of *Pretty Little Liars*, *Breaking Bad* or *Scandal*. I don't watch TV a lot, and when I do, I always tend to watch re-runs of *Duck Dynasty*. However, over Christmas I gave myself a little gift: Netflix. Now, I am always finding time to watch movies and TV series. One series which I encourage everyone to invest in is *Mad Men*.

Mad Men is set in the 1960s, when the economy was thriving and love was all you needed. The show is full of handsome, working men in suits, young and attractive secretaries and typical housewives. Donald Draper, played by Jon Hamm, is the head of the creative department in a successful advertising agency in New York City.

He seems to have everything going for him: a lovely wife, beautiful children and a well-paying job. However, in the first season you soon learn there is a mystery behind the man with a sexy smirk and a

talent with words.

If you are a creative thinker and enjoy learning about advertising, you will absolutely become addicted to this show. From the slogans and campaigns they prepare for clients to the persuasive tactics used, the cast of *Mad Men* gives a genuine feel for how ad agencies worked back then and what happens behind the scenes of a campaign.

You become attached to some characters while you will just hate others. But that's the beauty behind a good series. You are connected with the characters and will want to know what each character will do next.

The *Mad Men* series has been one of the most unique and entertaining series I have invested my time in. I encourage you to give it a shot, and you may find yourself absorbed in the '60s and wanting to make a career in advertisement.

The seventh season will be premiering April 13 on AMC. You can find seasons one through five on Netflix, and look for season six on Netflix April 7.

Review: *Grudge Match* barely manages to set the record

Joel Sissman

Staff Writer

"It's okay, but nothing special."

That is what you'll probably feel when you see Peter Segal's *Grudge Match*. Now, I know what are you thinking. How can a film that features two of Hollywood's most popular veterans be so underwhelming? Well, even with popular actors, the film still underwhelms.

The film is directed by Get Smart's director Peter Segal and stars alumni *The Godfather's* Robert De Niro and Rocky's Sylvester Stallone in respective roles of Billy "The Kid" McDonnen and Henry "Razor" Sharp, two retired boxers still wanting to settle the score. Other actors include LL Cool J, Kevin Hart and Alan Arkin.

The film was initially released on Dec. 25, 2013.

For those who missed out when the film first premiered, *Grudge Match* follows boxers Henry "Razor" Sharp and Billy "The Kid" McDonnen who become rivals after the two fights, each with a win over the other before Razor announces his retirement. Years later the two meet again by chance at a video game recording and their jellybean-packed/epic feud to settle the score begins again.

If that sounds like a cliché pulled from other films recent films, it pretty much is. Many scenes seemed to drag, and the comedic lines delivered by the characters were often hit or miss with the audience, with some moments being awkward and not funny at all, only serving to

take away any momentum the film had built up.

That said, however, the film's all-star cast managed to give much needed characterization in what would otherwise be typical characters and brings life to the mostly clichéd script. Despite its hit-or-miss approach, the comedy does actually manage to get a genuine laugh or chuckle out of you at times, and once action finally gets started, it is nostalgic to see both Stallone and De Niro getting back into the squared circle once more.

All in all, the movie is nothing special and not for everyone. However, it is good for a couple of laughs every now and then or if you want to see two of Hollywood's greats lace up their boots one more time.

Preview: *The Following* season 2 premieres

John Nicholson

Guest Writer

Last year, FOX introduced us to Ryan Hardy, played by Kevin Bacon, and his hunt for the serial killer Joe Carroll, played by James Purefoy, in *The Following*. The show was a surprise hit that demanded a second season.

The show told of alcoholic FBI agent Hardy and his hunt for the illustrious Carroll who was captured after a long killing spree of many young girls. It wasn't until Hardy sacrificed his safety that Carroll was captured.

That sacrifice came at a price; Hardy's heart was stabbed leaving him slightly crippled. The show continued to follow (no pun intended) Hardy as he tried to capture Carroll after Carroll escaped from prison and used his loyal

followers to evade the police at every turn.

The season ended with Carroll's supposed death and Hardy being brutally attacked by one of Carroll's last followers. And what a cliffhanger the season finale was.

The special season two preview of *The Following* airs Sunday, Jan. 19 immediately after the NFC Championship. The show will then settle into its regular Monday schedule beginning Jan. 27.

Season 2 will catch up with Hardy one year later in the wake of a horrific new murder spree. The FBI calls on Ryan and Mike Weston, played by Shawn Ashmore, to speak with the lone survivor, Lily, portrayed by Connie Nielsen, in order to help them solve the case. Ryan is reluctant to re-engage with the FBI but finds a valuable ally in his niece,

Max, played by Jessica Stroup, an NYPD cop working in the Intel Division.

As the investigation proceeds, Ryan crosses paths with several complicated individuals, including Luke, played by Sam Underwood, and Mandy Lang, played by Tiffany Boone, which furthers his suspicion that Carroll's reign of terror is far from over. Valorie Curry returns as Emma.

Other new faces joining the show this year include Valerie Cruz as an NYPD cop who works closely with Weston, James McDaniel as an FBI agent, Keith Carradine as a friend of Ryan, Jacinda Barrett as Julia, a disarming and alluring woman with mysterious intentions and Lee Tergesen as Kurt Bolen, a seemingly normal family man who may harbor a dark secret.

Features

UTM UNLIMITED

Student remembered, celebrated for life

Malorie Paine

Managing Editor, Print

From the outside looking in, Bethany Scott Mills seemed like your average UTM student, but from the inside looking out, there was nothing common about her.

"There are so many ways I could describe Beth, and not a single one of them would be negative. She was radiant, beautiful, positive, humble and the definition of love," said Scarlett Butner, a close friend of Mills.

Mills was more than just another student at UTM. She was a wife, a daughter, a sister and a friend to many. She always had a smile on her face and kind words to share.

"Beth's smile was as contagious as the flu; you couldn't help but catch it. She lit up the room with her smile and laughter. She always kept everyone around her smiling too," Butner said.

Mills made a point to be kind to others. It is something that many will remember her for.

"Bethany treated everyone with kindness and respect. She was the kind of woman who touched the lives of everyone around her, and she always made everyone else smile," said Katelyn Byrd, Mills' little sister in Alpha Omicron Pi.

During her time at UTM, Mills majored in Education. She also joined Alpha Omicron Pi and participated in many events with her sorority. Even before joining AOPi as a freshman, she affected the lives of those around her.

"Beth and I met during rush her freshman year, which was my sophomore year. I had just transferred from MTSU and didn't have that many friends at Martin. Beth was in my rush group, and her positive attitude

shined so bright to help me find my way through the tough days during rush. Then, we both got into Alpha Omicron Pi, and we became instant best friends," Butner said.

Bethany Scott began dating her then boyfriend, Donavin Mills,

and I would say, 'Yeah, why?' and he would say, 'She's texting me again.' So, I said, 'Donavin, why don't you just give it a try?' and he would say, 'Mom, we just don't have time,'" said Dawn Mills, Mills' mother-in-law. "So, I told him,

she had a really good time. After that, they began dating and the two became inseparable.

"He said, 'Well, she passed the test.' He never thought of Bethany as the country girl, and that was what he wanted. Once, he took Bethany snorkeling with the four-wheeler and realized 'Hey, she does enjoy what I enjoy.' They started dating and were inseparable ever-since," Dawn Mills said.

During the Fall 2012 semester, Scott was informed she had an illness that caused her to take some time off from school. The news of her illness took many people by surprise.

"We were speechless. No one could understand how something so horrific could happen to someone so amazing," Butner said. "I was devastated because I knew the outcome of ovarian cancer was the worst."

The morning she went to the hospital to find out what was going on, Scott told her boyfriend that he didn't need to go with her and that she would call and let him know what was going on.

"The morning she went to the hospital, I had woken Donavin up for work and he said, 'Mom, Bethany is at the hospital.' So, I asked him why he didn't go. He told me, 'Mom, she said she would call.' I said, 'Donavin, don't listen to girls when they tell you that. You need to go.' He said, 'Mom, she'll call.' Then, when we found out she was in ICU he was like, 'Mom, what do I do?' I said 'Donavin, go up there.' He did. Of course, after that, he was up there with her every chance he could get," Dawn Mills said.

The couple continued to date through November 2012.

"He came home from work one night right before Thanksgiving and I said, 'Donavin, is something wrong?' He said, 'No,' but he just had this look on his face. So, I said, 'You have something on

your mind?' He just said, 'No.' He kept fooling with his phone and looking at the T.V. Just as I was about to go to bed, he handed me his phone. There was a picture of an engagement ring. I said, 'Are you sure?' He said, 'Yeah, Mom.' This is when we knew Bethany had cancer. I said 'Donavin, this is a lot to take on. ... This cancer, you don't know that even if they cure it, that everything will be okay.' He said, 'Mom, we've wasted enough time. I know Bethany is the one.' That was on a Thursday, and that weekend he got with his dad and his uncle, and they went to Kay Jewelers, because he wanted the ring for Thanksgiving. When he got to Kay's, they had one ring he had picked out left. It was in Bethany's size. He said, 'See, Mom. I told you,'" Dawn Mills said.

That Thanksgiving, her family, her mom and dad and several of their friends went over to the Mills' home to be there when Mills asked if she would marry him.

"They knew he was going to propose; she didn't, but everyone else did," Dawn Mills said.

"We all went around the room and said what we were thankful for and when we got to Donavin—we made him go last—he got down on one knee. Bethany said, 'Donavin, what are you doing?' He pulled the ring out and said, 'Bethany, you are the first thing I think of every morning when I wake up, and the last thing I think about every night. We've wasted enough time; I want you to be my wife.' Everyone in the room was crying, and she accepted."

The couple married on August 17, 2013.

"One thing that Donavin did was any time he went to the store he would come home with



Bethany Mills' smile was contagious, as was evident on her wedding day. | **Photo Courtesy/Facebook**

during August 2012. They had gone to school together at Dresden High School and had tried dating then, but their schedules never seemed to work out.

"Bethany worked at E.W. James, and I would see her sometimes and talk to her. When I would get home, Donavin would always ask me 'Mom, did you get to see Bethany again?'

'Someone's going to get her.' They would text back and forth for a few days, and then they would stop. She always had everything going on with school, and he was working. They just never could get together."

In August 2012, Mills bought a four-wheeler and went snorkeling with a friend. He invited Scott to go along, and

Features

UTM UNLIMITED

He sought a job; they found a home

Youlanda Allen
Sheila Scott

Guest Writer

Features Editor

The Gibson family, which includes Dr. Michael Gibson and Edie Gibson and their children, Brandt and Kesley, can often be seen around UTM, whether it's as professors, staff, students or alumni.

“Thirty years ago, we were not sure that Martin would be our home, but we are proud to be a part of the Martin family.

Gibson has been a professor of Geology at UTM for 25 years, specializing in paleontology. He teaches several fields of geology, such as marine geology, paleontology and history of the Earth, and methods of geoscience, but paleontology, the study of fossils, is what he loves most.

Although Gibson loves finding really old things, he never thought he would actually make a living doing what he loves. Growing up in Williamsburg, Va., a historic, tourist town that attracts thousands, and putting himself through college working as a hotel manager, he always thought he would have a career in the hotel business.

As a child, Gibson loved history, being outdoors and going to the beach. He loved being in the water, but most of all he loved collecting seashells. Gibson graduated from The College of William & Mary in 1979 with a degree in Geology. In 1981, he began graduate school at Auburn University.

Gibson met his future wife, Edie Bolton, while teaching in the



Dr. Michael Gibson and Edie Bolton were engaged in 1983. | *Photo Courtesy/ Michael Gibson*

Geology Department at Auburn. She was working on bachelor's degrees in Public Relations and Journalism. In 1983, the couple married immediately after he finished graduate school, but stayed at Auburn for another year while she finished her degrees.

He then taught geology for one year at UTK while working on his doctorate. During his time in Knoxville, Gibson was recommended for a teaching position available at UTM. He interviewed in the spring of 1988 while still in his fourth year of his

doctoral program. The position was to start the following August, and he needed to be finished and have his dissertation defended by then in order to take the position. In August, he graduated, went home and packed a U-Haul, and then drove to Martin, all within a few days.

“There was a lot of pressure on me at that time. So, I worked really hard to finish in order to keep my position. I guess you could say I was in the right place at the right time,” Gibson said.

Gibson has a long list of accomplishments. Among these

are 19 trips to Central America, teaching two weeks in Japan, writing about 45 articles and a few chapters in several books, and being invited to speak at the International Symposium in Canada while he was still in Knoxville. He is currently writing a new article. He also teaches coastal geomorphology and marine geology during the summer at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab in Alabama while conducting research related to change in the island because of hurricane activity and human modifications. He then applies what he learns there to

his regular research on fossils in Tennessee. He also designed the natural history floor and dinosaur hall of the recently opened Discovery Park of America in Union City.

Gibson loves learning and will sometimes read several books at one time.

“I love my job and coming to work is easy for me, because I get to come to work and play, and I feel very fortunate for that,” Gibson said.

While on this incredible journey, Gibson has had the support of his wife, to whom he has been married for 30 years. Edie Gibson says that she and her husband share a common bond. They both have a love for old things; the only difference is that she collects antiques and he collects fossils. They also both love the beach and reading, but their No. 1 hobby is spending time with their two children, Kesley and Brandt.

Edie Gibson started working at UTM in 1989 while pregnant with Brandt. She is currently an executive assistant to the chancellor, and she has worked under four different chancellors. She also enjoys traveling with her husband. As a couple, they have traveled to Japan, Germany and Canada. She has only traveled out of the country one time without her husband, when she traveled with her family to Mexico before she married.

“Thirty years ago, we were not sure that Martin would be our home, but we are proud to be a part of the Martin family,” Edie Gibson said.

She is her husband's biggest supporter, saying she believes her husband's love of learning has been instrumental to their children's love of learning.

Brandt Gibson is a UTM senior double majoring in Organismal Biology and Geology. His interest is in Field Geology, which deals with land and water.

“My best experience being

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Features

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a student at UTM has been attending the Southeast Geological Society of America Meeting in Puerto Rico, which allowed me to sit in on seminars that were very influential," Brandt Gibson said.

Like his father, Brandt stays busy. He is a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Sigma Gamma Epsilon and the Earth Science Honor Society. He also holds three jobs: supplementary instructor of Geology, a technician for IT and a PEP leader for First Year Incoming Freshmen.

Recently, Brandt was selected to participate in a Vanderbilt Research Experience for Undergraduates funded by the National Science Foundation to work on "super volcanoes" in the American West. He did a week of field work during the winter break and will be doing an additional two months of field work this summer. He is also working on an experiment with a temporarily exposed lignite field (lignite is a precursor to coal). His goal is to determine how it was deposited on the Mississippi River. After graduation, he plans to attend graduate school. Although he isn't sure what he wants to do after graduate school, he believes that a



In 2012, a day of Christmas shopping together in Mobile, Ala., was enjoyed by the whole Gibson family. From left is Brandt, Edie, Michael and Kesley Gibson. |

Photo Credit/Michael Gibson

career in geology will be rewarding and that he will continue to do research on and near the water.

Brandt Gibson loves the water and is an avid scuba diver. His hobbies also include the restoration of musical instruments, and he is currently working on a drum.

"Growing up with Dad was fun.

We traveled a lot and everything turned into a learning experience. I believe that my father's passions have led me to have similar passions, as well," Brandt Gibson said.

Kesley Gibson graduated from UTM in spring 2012 with a bachelor's degree in Organismal Biology. While at UTM, she was involved with Sigma Gamma

Epsilon, the Undergraduate Alumni Council and was a KA Southern Belle.

"Making the friends that I made was my favorite experience while at UTM," Kesley Gibson said.

She later taught biology labs for UTM and continued to do research. She also worked for Dauphin Island Sea Lab with the Discovery Hall Program as a camp counselor for middle-school groups. In the summer of 2013, she volunteered in Dr. Sean Power's lab and went out tagging sharks in the Gulf of Mexico. She is currently working on a Master of Science degree in Environmental Science at Troy University in Alabama and plans to graduate in the spring of 2015. Her thesis is on acute and chronic/sub-chronic toxicity testing on freshwater mussels, *Villosa lienosa*, with the intention of adding some threatened and endangered species. After graduate school, she plans to complete her Ph.D., teach and conduct research.

"I love to read anything that I can get my hands on, something I got from my mom and dad," Kesley Gibson said.

"Growing up with my dad was always exciting, entertaining and there was never a dull moment," she said.

"I didn't know too many kids that got to travel, see the things we did and experience the sciences. I got to do things like hold a moon rock, go behind the scenes at the museums and go on digs. I had so much fun doing it all."

Kesley Gibson's hobbies are swimming; walking her dog, Mokarran, whom she named after the hammerhead shark; and relaxing with friends. Her favorite childhood experience was a simple thing, one that many other little girls have probably done, too, but maybe not quite in the same way. It was walking on the beach with her dad. He is the one who really got her interested in science.

"He would explain the process happening on the beach, in the water and what organisms were involved," Kesley Gibson said.

Although Kesley is not in the field of paleontology, like her father, she is studying the modern-day version of his invertebrates, known as bivalves.

The Gibson family, like so many others at UTM, came to Martin for a job, but found a home instead.

Go to the photo gallery "He Sought a Job; They Found a Home" at www.thepacer.net to view more photos of the Gibson family.

Life

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flowers, because he wanted her to know that when he went, he thought of her," Dawn Mills said. "The last time she was home, right before she went back to the hospital, he came home and said, 'I only bought half of your presents.' She was like, 'What do you mean half?' He said, 'You know how I always go to the store and get you one thing and I always forget the other?' She said, 'Like flowers?' He said, 'Yeah ... well, I always forget to get the vase, but I bought you a vase, but I forgot to get the flowers.' She said, 'Donavin.' Then she looked at me and said, 'We have 24 vases from our wedding, why did he

buy me a vase?'"

The couple were always buying each other gifts when they went out anywhere.

"It wasn't about buying gifts, it was so the other knew they were thinking about each other," Dawn Mills said.

On Dec. 18, 2013, Mills lost a 14-month battle of ovarian cancer. She would be turning 23 on Jan. 24. Though she lost the battle, there is one thing she never lost: faith. Friends of Mills say she kept a strong faith in God while battling the cancer.

"When Beth was sick, she clung to her faith first and her family

second. God was her support, and she knew that it was all in his hands. ... Beth's faith could move mountains, and I pray I can become more like her in my faith," Butner said.

During Mills' battle, she never lost faith and stayed strong for her family.

"She stayed positive for her family, even in the worst of times," Butner said.

Mills' faith had an affect on most of the people she was around, especially her husband.

"Bethany helped Donavin in his faith. He'd been in church since he was 5, but just wasn't as strong

as Bethany in his faith," Dawn Mills said.

Their pastor gave them a one-year devotional to complete during their first year of marriage.

"Every night, Donavin would say, 'Come on Bethany, we've got to do our Bible study together.' One morning, Bethany woke up and Donavin was sitting on the edge of the bed. She asked him what he was doing and he said, 'I was just praying for you, and thanking God for you.' That was while she was healthy," Dawn Mills said.

Though they didn't have a long time together, their time together had a major influence on one

another and their families.

"You never really knew where their family ended and ours began," Dawn Mills said.

Friends say that while they understood that her illness was serious, they will still miss her dearly.

"We all understood the seriousness of Bethany's illness, but it didn't make it any less painful or shocking when we found out about her passing," Byrd said.

If anything can be said of Mills, it is that the legacy of her kindness will live on through her family and friends.

"There is no one like her, nor will there ever be," Butner said.

Sports

Newsome named to 2014 Nancy Lieberman Award Watch List

Sports Information

The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame announced on Jan. 15 that UTM women's basketball senior guard Jasmine Newsome has been named to the watch list of candidates for the 2014 Nancy Lieberman Award.

The award recognizes the top point guard in women's NCAA Division I college basketball. Candidates exhibit the floor leadership, play-making and ball-handling skills of Hall of Famer Nancy Lieberman.

The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame became the new host of the Nancy Lieberman Award in October 2013 after the Rotary Club of Detroit managed it for several years.

Newsome has been a model of consistency for the Skyhawks,



Pacer Photo/Bradley Stringfield

ranking second in program history with 2,301 career points while ranking seventh on the Ohio Valley Conference's all-time leaderboard. A Millington, Tenn. native, Newsome has

been named OVC Player of the Week two times this season and ranks third in the conference with 19.1 points per game while leading the league with 5.1 assists and 2.2 steals per game.

"We are honored to have the opportunity to award a young athlete that shows the same sort of dedication to the game of basketball as the legendary Nancy Lieberman," said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Basketball Hall of Fame. "This award is our chance to recognize some truly extraordinary point guards in women's college basketball."

The Hall of Fame appointed a premier Selection Committee made up of top college basketball personnel including media members, head coaches, sports information directors and Hall of Famers to review the candidates. The list will be narrowed down to a final 20 in February, then final five by March. The Lieberman Award winner will be announced during Final Four weekend activities.

"It's amazing to be able to have my name associated with some of the best point guards and most well-rounded female athletes at the college level," Lieberman said. "This is the first year the award is hosted by the Hall of Fame and I think candidates will be even more aware of how prestigious this honor is."

Previous winners of the Nancy Lieberman Award include last year's recipient Skylar Diggins (Notre Dame), Sue Bird (Connecticut), Renee Montgomery (Connecticut), Diana Taurasi (Connecticut), Lindsey Harding (Duke), Courtney Vandersloot (Gonzaga), Temeka Johnson (LSU), Kristi Toliver (Maryland), Ivory Latta (North Carolina) and Andrea Riley (Oklahoma State).

Schedule from 1/22 - 2/4

Rifle-UTM Invitational 1/21-26

Men's Basketball vs. Eastern Illinois 1/23

Tennis @ Lipscomb 1/24

Equestrian vs. Georgia 1/24

Men's Basketball vs. SIUE 1/25

Equestrian vs. Delaware State 1/25

Women's Basketball vs. SIUE 1/25

Rifle-Withrow Open @ Murray 1/26

Women's Basketball vs. Eastern Illinois 1/27

Men's Basketball vs. Eastern Kentucky 1/30

Track @ SIUE 2/1

Women's Basketball @ Eastern Kentucky 2/3

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Sports

Butler becomes OVC's all-time leading scorer

Bradley Stringfield

Managing Editor, Online
Sports Editor

Breaking records is nothing new for UTM's Heather Butler and against Morehead State on Jan. 18, she broke yet another one.

Aside from totaling 26 points in the game to help her team defeat their Ohio Valley Conference foe 74-52, Butler became the OVC's all-time leading scoring with 2,532 points. The previous mark was 2,526 set by former Tennessee Tech player Cheryl Taylor in 1987.

"Honestly, it is one of those things that you cannot even begin to put into words," Butler told UTM Sports following the game. "I could not have done it without my teammates all four years. They have always meant so much to me and I get emotional just thinking about what all this program has meant to me personally. All of my coaches, going back to high school, have always given me the upmost support and the support staff of my mother and

sister has been incredible. It is a good feeling to know that they are proud of you, overwhelming in a way. To be able to go away from this program my senior year, knowing that I did everything I could, allows me to leave this program down the road with a smile on my face."

Not only did she claim the OVC's top scoring record, but she moved into 35th on the NCAA's all-time scoring list.

During her time at UTM, Butler has rewrote both the OVC and the UTM record books en route to winning three-straight OVC Conference Championships.

Despite the individual success that she has had, Butler doesn't miss an opportunity to thank those who have helped her get where she is.

"My family is my backbone and follow me around everywhere I go," said Butler. "Throughout growing up, my mom was always there for me, whether it was rebounding or whatever my needs. I do not have words to describe

how much my mom, sister and everyone in this program means to me."

After the game, Morehead State head coach Tom Hodges spoke on Butler breaking the record.

"[She] is very deserving of the OVC's all-time scoring record," said Hodges. "I'm just sorry it happened here at Johnson Arena. Heather is a ball of energy and catalyst for everything they do. A lot of the success UT Martin has enjoyed in recent years is due to her. I'm glad to see her go because she's such a great player."

On Monday, against Tennessee Tech, she recorded 35 points moving her career total to 2,567. Her teammate, Jasmine Newsome, scored 36 points against the Golden Eagles moving her career-total to 2,356, which moves her into fifth all-time in the OVC.

The Skyhawks (14-6, 7-0 OVC) will return to action on Saturday, Jan. 25, to take on SIU Edwardsville at 2 p.m. in Elam Center.

UTM Sports briefs

Equestrian team signs two riders for 2014-15

Carli Pitts and Austin Brewer have inked National Letters of Intent to join the University of Tennessee at Martin equestrian team next season. Both riders will compete in Western horsemanship as freshmen beginning in the 2014-15 season. Pitts, an Evansville, Ind. native, is currently enrolled at Emerson Preparatory School and brings a wealth of accolades to the Skyhawk program. Brewer, who hails from Nampa, Idaho, currently attends Another Choice Virtual Charter School and has been riding competitively since the age of five. Pitts and Brewer join Hunter Seat riders Reiley Wilson (Traverse City, Mich.), Sarah Martinage (Odessa, Fla.), Mia Bray (Indio, Calif.) and Samantha Hill (San Diego, Calif.) in head coach Meghan Corvin's signing classes.

Former Skyhawk wideout claims another award

For the fourth time since the conclusion of the University of Tennessee at Martin's 2013 football season, Jeremy Butler has been named an All-American. College Sporting News named wide receiver to its 2013 Fabulous Fifty Football Championship Subdivision All-American Team. Butler was one of eight Ohio Valley Conference players and one of four wide receivers to make the list of the top 50 football players in the FCS ranks.

Women's basketball defeats Tennessee Tech

On Monday, the UTM Women's Basketball team defeated OVC rival Tennessee Tech 102-78. Jasmine Newsome led the team with 36 points while Heather Butler finished the game with 35 points. Newsome recorded team-highs with six rebounds and seven assists and Butler scored a game-high seven three-pointers. Ashia Jones was also in double-digits for the Skyhawks recording 19 points. For Tennessee Tech, Candace Parsons led with 13 points, followed by Molly Heady with 12 and T'Keyah Williams with 11. For the full game recap go to www.thepacer.net.

COLUMN

Sports Editor takes on lack of attendance

Bradley Stringfield

Managing Editor, Online
Sports Editor

Recently, *The Pacer* launched its own blog, Voice It!. I wrote the first post on this blog and I put together a list of three things I think new Athletic Director Julio Freire should focus on. Number one on that list, increasing student attendance at games.

Anyone who has been around me the past year has heard me rant, on multiple occasions, about the lack of student attendance at UTM sporting events. Community members, parents, faculty and alumni flock to games, but students are nearly an endangered species at these events.

I'm not going to act like I know why students don't come out to

support the Skyhawks.

If they win, there aren't many people there and if they lose, there are only slightly less.

People often ask me, "Why would I go see a team if they're just going to lose?" First of all, if that's your rebuttal, it's invalid. You clearly don't show up when they win. Furthermore, sports fans will go see their team, even if the opinion of some of those fans is that their team sucks.

That's not the issue with UTM; the teams don't 'suck'.

Is it a marketing failure? I don't think so.

Do people just not care about sports here? Not even remotely true, people here love sports.

The Ohio Valley Conference is growing every year. People are paying attention to what goes on in the OVC now.

The women's basketball team keeps finding OVC and NCAA records to break and the men's team is getting better every week.

So I have a challenge for you, reader, go watch a game. Take a break from homework; sober up a little bit and go watch a game. Every issue of *The Pacer* contains an upcoming schedule of events. If you can't find what you need there, go to www.utmsports.com.

Give it a chance, go to a game. If you don't like it, write a letter to the editor to *The Pacer*, comment about how terrible it was in the comment section on our website or unleash a profanity-laced rant towards me on Twitter, @official_bks.

However, if you do go, and you enjoy it, all I ask you go back. Support your school and support your teams.

The Pacer Player of the Week

- Recorded 26 points in a win against Morehead State
- Recorded 35 points against Tennessee Tech
- Became the Ohio Valley Conference's All-Time Leading Scorer with 2,567 points



Heather Butler

Photo Credit/Sports Information